

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 OPR-02 SSO-00 CCO-00
A-01 OC-06 CPR-01 USSS-00 SY-05 /041 W
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O P 061705Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6945
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2816

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: (A) STATE 055126; (B) LAGOS 2579, (C) LAGOS 2409

1. EMBASSY EXPECTS SEE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MUSA
AT 11 A.M. MARCH 7TH TO DISCUSS REFTEL A AND OTHER ASPECTS OF
PRESIDENTIAL TRIP. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD
HAVE WASHINGTON'S REACTION BY THEN TO THE FOLLOWING
POINTS.

2. INDICATION OF NEW EMBASSY. REFTEL A DOES NOT
INDICATE WHETHER DEPT/WHITE HOUSE AGREE WITH US THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN LAGOS SMULD INCLUDE DEDICATION
OF NEW EMBASSY. A FINAL DECISION NEED NOT BE TAKEN
UNTIL THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM HAS VISITED THIS SITE. WE
WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION, HNOWEVER, TO PROPOSE TO ME A
THAT THIS EVENT BE PLACED ON THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
FOR EARLY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
WHEN THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM ARRIVES.

3. WITH REGARD PARA 12 OF REFTEL A, IT WILL CERTAINHWY
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BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN
BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE GROUP INVITED TO HEAR
THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH. THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW
EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE AN EVEN BETTER OPPORTUNITY IN OUR
VIEW, SINCE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AT THAT EVENT FOR THE
PRESIDENT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH A FEW OF THESE REPRE-
SENTATIVES. MOREOVER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE

EMBASSY DEDICATION CAN MORE EASILY INCLUDE REFERENCE TO
OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA.

4. WITH REGARD PARA 9 OF REFTEL A, MUSA SAID MERELY
THAT GENERAL OBASANJO WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACCOMPANY
THE PRESIDENT TO KANO BECAUSE IT IS HIS CUSTOM NOT TO

ACCOMPANY A VISITING HEAD OF STATE OUTSIDE
LAGOS. MUSA DID NOT INDICATE THAT OBASANJO HAS
ACTUALLY ADDRESSED AND DECIDED THE ISSUE IN RELATION

TO THIS PARTICULAR VISIT. THE QUESTION MAY PROVE AWKWARD
FOR OBASANJO IN THAT HE WOULD
NOT WISH TO SET A PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD MAKE IT
DIFFICULT TO REFUSE SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER HEADS OF
STATE IN THE FUTURE. IN VIEW OF OBASANJO'S RECOGNIZED
PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE KADAWA PROJECT, THE CHANCES OF HIS
ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT TO KANO WOULD HOWEVER BE SOMEWHAT
BETTER IF KADAWA IS MAINTAINED IN THE PROGRAM. WE ARE

THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO TAKE A HARD POSITION ON KADAWA
PENDING DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO FOREGOING CONSIDERATION.
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